

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/615,396

Attorney Docket No. Q76368

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-9 are the claims that have been examined in the present application. Claims 1, 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hunter (U.S. 6,356,029). Claims 2 and 4-8 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1-4, 6 and 9, and canceling claims 5 and 8.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, as well as receipt of the priority document filed July 9, 2003.

Applicant further thanks the Examiner for acknowledging acceptance of the drawings filed November 19, 2003, and for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 19, 2003.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 4-8 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 and 4-8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

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Applicant has written the limitations from canceled claims 5 and 8 into independent claims 1, 3 and 9. Therefore, because the Examiner has conceded that claims 5 and 8 are allowable, this rewriting of claims 1, 3 and 9 should place the claims in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Grant K. Rowan

Registration No. 41,278

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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